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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are enclosed.

The documents were recently cited in a European Search Report, which is dated August 6, 2003, issued on a foreign counterpart application. A copy of that communication is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience. U.S. Patent No. 5,502,575 is an English-language counterpart to the cited Japanese document.

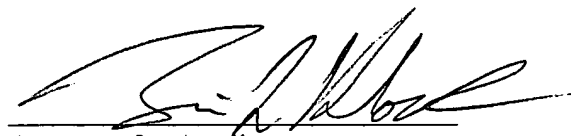
Applicants submit that no fee is required since no Office Action has been issued. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fee required by this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner, that the next official communication indicate that such information has been considered, and that the Examiner initial the enclosed Form PTO-1449 indicating that the information listed thereon has been considered and return a copy of the initialed form.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian L. Klock", is written over a horizontal line.

Attorney for Applicants
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